



Spot Since Literaduory

Spotlight is a quarterly magazine published by the Public Affairs Office at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Editor: Anne M. Stark | stark8@llnl.gov | 925-422-9799

Other contributing writers for this issue:
Breanna Bishop | bishop33@llnl.gov | 925-423-9802
Carrie Martin | martin59@llnl.gov | 925-424-4175
Michael Padilla | padilla37@llnl.gov | 925-341-8692
Jeremy Thomas | thomas244@llnl.gov | 925-422-5539

Layout by Julie Russell | russell36@llnl.gov | 925-519-8249

SpotLight BODE STATE OF STATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE • • •

It's said that when it comes to employees at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, it's like one big family. On any given day, more than 7,500 people stream into the one-square-mile Lab — except during the last pandemic year. In this issue of *SpotLight*, we take a look at not only the Lab as a family of employees, but also employees who are in the same family.

The Lab's annual Family Days was John Jr. Burmann's introduction to the Laboratory where his father, John Sr., worked at the Lab for more than 25 years. But the Burmann family ties don't end there. Like his father before him, John Jr. often took his own son Daniel to Lab Family Days. Daniel eventually joined the Lab as mechanical technologist after a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps.

4

Being at the Lab for any length of time, you likely crossed paths with one or all three of the Martinez sisters. Gloria, Yolanda and Bertha, three out of nine siblings, from Tracy, California, have a long history at Lawrence Livermore dating back to 1974. While they never worked in the same area, one commonality they shared was an infectious smile and a strong work ethic.



For mother/daughter duo Debbie Rock and Heidi Freitas, working at the Lab is part of their family's heritage. The two can trace their LLNL roots back to 1952 when Rock's father, Charlie Hannon, began his 35-year career at the Lab. Rock's mother, Barbara, worked at the Lab from 1960 to 1964 as a secretary and chemistry research assistant. The Hannons became a well-regarded legacy family, especially in the security organizations.



Long before Stacey James was hired at the Laboratory, a family connection two generations strong went before her — her paternal grandfather, her maternal grandmother and both of her parents worked at the Lab. Stacey's family history at LLNL is three generations and 60 years long. To Stacey, the Laboratory is a part of the family.



Working at the Lab was like coming full circle for Mike Voelker. Both grandparents on his dad's side, Loren and Betty Voelker, had careers at the Lab. Voelker's grandfather on his mom's side, Art Krakowsky, was an electronics engineer and manager at LLNL. Down the line, Voelker's dad Keith and uncle Matt also worked at LLNL, not to mention his cousin, Bobbie Brown.



Three decades after joining the Laboratory, Joseph Warren's dreams have come true — his daughters, Monique and Shian, have careers they're passionate about, and he has a front-row seat to watch them shine. Seeing increasing numbers of young women in scientific and technical fields at LLNL, Warren was inspired to provide his daughters with rewards for academic accomplishments and worked to find role role models and mentors for them.



We hope you enjoy this edition of *SpotLight*. We'd also like to hear from you. Send us your thoughts and suggestions, whether it's what you like — or even what you don't — about this magazine, or if there is something you would like to see in coming editions. You can reach us via email at pao@llnl.gov.

→ VISIT SPOTLIGHT ON THE WEB.

ohn Burmann Jr.'s parents still live in the same Livermore house they bought in 1965. When the family first moved in, Burmann's father, John Sr., worked in the Lab's maintenance mechanic division, repairing heavy equipment (diesel engines being his specialty). The elder Burmann, a U.S. Army veteran, would take the family to the annual Lab Family Days, where John Jr. was exposed to the astounding breadth of projects at the Lab.

"It was funny because growing up here, all my friends' parents worked at the Lab. It was the main job in Livermore besides Sandia," John Jr. said.

"It's always been a part of Livermore. At the open houses, I saw all the cool things going on at the Lab. It became my dream to work there."

A self-proclaimed "science geek," John Jr. sought to follow in his father's footsteps. While John Sr. had always encouraged his son to apply for a job at LLNL, the younger Burmann didn't think he had the right qualifications.

However, in 1985, a program opened for technicians for the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation (AVLIS) project and John Jr. saw it as an opportunity to prove himself.

Burmann joined the AVLIS program as a contracted mechanical technician. When AVLIS ended, he moved over to the Inertial Confinement Fusion program, and then to the tritium facility at Superblock. For several years, father and son worked on site in separate areas, sometimes meeting to catch up when they were both on-site.

"He was here in the early days of the Lab, so it was exciting to be working at the same place he did," Burmann Jr. said. "I'm sure he was proud of me, too. He loved his job, and he knew so many people working on the maintenance side, even in some of the programs I worked on. It was a neat feeling knowing he was there, and I could go see him when I wanted."

Now 86, John Sr. retired in 1991. His son transitioned to the plutonium facility at Superblock in 2007 and became a technician supervisor, where he works to this day.

But the Burmann family ties don't end there. Like his father before him, John Jr. often took his own son Daniel to Lab

Family Days. At home, John Jr. could be found in the garage working on his "dream" truck, a Toyota FJ40 Rock Crawler, with Daniel assisting. For many years, they worked on rebuilding the truck from the ground up.

Daniel joined the U.S. Marine Corps fresh out of high school, where he added to his mechanical skillset. He found an opening at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) and applied through a contractor. After landing the job at NIF, Daniel would regularly visit Superblock to pick up cylinders of tritium from his father and transport them to NIF for shots.

"This was so awesome, because growing up I didn't really know much about what my dad did at work and all of a sudden part of my job is to pick these parts up from him," Daniel said. "That was super exciting to me."

Daniel eventually became a full-time employee and has worked at LLNL for the past 10 years. He is currently a mechanical technologist in the Lab's National Security Engineering Division, where he builds and modifies parts for the weapons program. Though they work in different programs now, John and Daniel do occasionally meet up for lunch.

Next year, the Burmann family will mark 70 years working at LLNL, stretched across three generations. With Daniel and John Sr. having served in the armed forces, and John Jr. being a strong supporter of the military, what binds the three men together is their sense of responsibility to national security.

"The Lab has been really favorable to military personnel," John Jr. said. "There's also a sense of pride in working here. It's a unique place. It's also just the culture out here. We all have a similar mission to supporting the nation."

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

In 2022, the Burmann family will celebrate 70 years working at LLNL, spanning across three generations (from left: John Jr., John Sr. and Daniel). All three men were attracted to the Lab out of respect for its national security mission, and early exposure to the Lab's breadth and depth of research through Family Days events played a major role for both John Jr. and Daniel. Photo by Julie Russell/LLNL

The youngest Burmann, Daniel, said the best part of working at the same place his dad and grandfather worked are the stories John Sr. tells of Lab's early days. "When I spend time with him, we always find ourselves

talking about the Lab," Daniel said. "He truly enjoyed working here and has many years of great memories. I hope to carry on the legacy of the Burmanns here at LLNL for many years to come."



THREE IS THE



you have worked at the Lab for any length of time in the last 46 years, you have no doubt crossed paths with one of the Martinez sisters. If you knew one, you most certainly knew all three, as they would often be seen together at lunchtime and out and about participating in Lab events.

Gloria, Yolanda and Bertha, three out of nine siblings from Tracy, California, have a long history at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) dating back to 1974. While they never worked in the same area, one commonality they shared was an infectious smile and a strong work ethic.

It was Gloria and Yolanda who were first made aware of opportunities at LLNL. They were students at Tracy High School participating in a business program when representatives from the Laboratory came and offered interviews for different positions.

Yolanda, the youngest of the three, was the first to join the Laboratory full time in June 1974. Her first position was in Business Services in the Travel Department, verifying travel requests and performing other administrative tasks. This was a time when everything was done by hard copy. If you were an administrative assistant, you would type out the travel request forms (on a typewriter) for those you support and hand carry the documents to the Travel Department, where Yolanda would greet you. She would log in your forms and instruct you on where to go next — a much different process than today.

Yolanda later became a building coordinator in the Operations and Business Directorate. She worked at the Lab for 34 years, leaving in 2008. "Yolanda was always commended for the excellent customer service she provided," Gloria said.



Gloria (right) were the first of the Martinez sisters to come to the Lab in 1974, the start of decades-long careers.

Yolanda (left) and

Gloria was the face of the Laser Program library that was located in the Bldg. 481 atrium. For nearly 30 years she supported scientists with all their library needs.



"Her customers loved interacting with her and she enjoyed working with her coworkers."

Gloria, the middle of the three, started working at the Lab in July 1974 as a summer student, part time, while attending Delta College in Stockton.

"At first, what attracted me to the Lab was a good opportunity to start working within a business setting, while at the same time attending higher education," Gloria said. "Within a year of working, the Lab offered me a full-time position in September

1975 with a good salary and great benefits. It was a good career opportunity, so I decided to take it."

The bulk of Gloria's career was working for Lasers/NIF Programs Library as a library assistant (between 1979-2007). The Laser Programs Library was located in the atrium of Bldg. 481. Gloria's desk was in the open area, so pretty much everyone who worked in Laser Programs knew Gloria. "I supported the scientists by retrieving articles, purchasing books and conducting literature searches," she said.

When the library was phased out, Gloria transitioned to NIF's Document Services Group. She worked on STATS and public access projects for the deputy director for Science and Technology, until her retirement in November 2020. She fondly remembers her time working in Doc Services, as well as all the breakfasts, potlucks and holiday parties.

The oldest of the three, Bertha Weaver, was the last to join the Laboratory. She started working at LLNL in 1988 as an administrative assistant in Space and Site Planning through MarWest contractor. She was hired as a Lab employee in 1991 in the Mechanical Engineering Department. During her career, she supported the DOE Compliance Self-Assessment Project, Tiger Team Project and the Contract 48 ES&H Compliance/Safety & Environmental Protection Assurance Management Office. She was the administrative assistant for the Packaging and Transportation Safety Program in the Nuclear Operations Department. After 29 years of service, Weaver retired in August 2020. "I really enjoyed my career at LLNL and all the friendships I made," she said.

While the Martinez sisters have all moved on from the Laboratory and are enjoying more free time to spend with family, they have fond memories of their time at the Laboratory. Gloria recalls the early days where they would have disco dancing during lunchtime and they would play co-ed lob ball at the baseball field on site through the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory Recreation Association, now known as Livermore Laboratory Employee Services Association. "It was a different time back then, we had a lot of fun."

"A pivotal moment for me was doing a Webex live on my last day at the Lab," Gloria said. "Many of my past mentors, coworkers and friends attended. They all spoke of fun times and had kind words to say. This is when I realized I'm retired. It made me look back at the last 46 years of working at the Lab and made me realize what an enormous impact on who I became and who I am today. Never did I think that my whole work career would be at the Lab. When our parents passed away in the late 1970s, the Lab became my second family. My mentors and coworkers supported me through personal and professional opportunities and helped me grow into the person I am today."

The Martinez sisters credit their parents for their strong influence, Catholic faith and the traditional family values they bestowed. "We were taught from a young age to be independent and to always count on ourselves to see things through," Gloria said. "Our father always said, 'You can't count on anyone but you.' Having this mentality helped us persevere when life got a little tough. We still uphold the values that our parents taught us and we try to instill this within our younger generations."

The sisters remain close and often get together for birthdays, holidays, lunches and dinners. Gloria and Yolanda even live together in their family home. They enjoy going to the movies and attending baseball games, both professional and family games.

6



Debbie Rock and Heidi Freitas

'Growing up, my father, mother, uncle and grandparents all spoke about LLNL like it was a magical place that only special people got to work at.'

– Heidi Freitas



Debbie Rock in 1982.



Debbie Rock in 1983.

A COMMON BOND:

A FAMILY LEGACY SINCE 1952

By Michael Padilla



Jeffrey Hannon

or mother/daughter duo Debbie Rock and Heidi Freitas, working at the Lab is more than a paycheck. It is part of their family's legacy.

The duo enjoy family hunting expeditions, taking family trips and most of all the two like contributing to the success and security of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The two can trace their LLNL roots back to 1952 — the year the Lab was established when Rock's father, Charlie Hannon, began his 35-year career at the Lab, where he was an electronics technician, a supervisor and high voltage technician. Rock's mother, Barbara, worked at the Lab from 1960 to 1964 as a secretary and chemistry research assistant. She the Lab." cut her Lab career short because of a policy barring spouses, siblings or other relatives from working together. After the policy was lifted, the Hannon family became a well regarded legacy family, especially in the security organizations. Rock's brother, Jeffrey Hannon, was a Protective Force officer and a locksmith. Her husband, John Rock, also served in the Protective Force and won three DOE titles for his marksmanship.

For Freitas, the Lab became like another member of her family in 2016.

After years of attending Lab Family Days, Weapons & Complex Integration (WCI) picnics and hanging out at the Badge Office with her mom, she joined the family tradition. Freitas was hired into a facility that watched her grow up through her mother's bragging eyes and many knew more about her than she had imagined.

"Growing up, my father, mother, uncle and grandparents all spoke about LLNL like it was a magical place that only special people got to work at," said Freitas, a document operations specialist with WCI/High Explosives Applications Facility. "Being the third generation to work at LLNL has provided me with more tools than I know what to do with."

Calling her daughter her coworker has been a special point of pride for Rock, Protective Force officer

"My parents established a family legacy defined by commitment, leadership and loyalty," Rock said. "I take great pride in what I do and I am proud of the opportunities I have had to grow at the Lab."

For Freitas, the wealth of opportunity at the Lab also has been a point of pride. Her father always talked how LLNL was the one place where anyone could find another family and where every tool imaginable would be provided to help grow your mind and heart.

"Anytime I go to work I am safe and surrounded by people who care, even those people I do not know very well are always smiling and doing their best to make a difference in this world," she said. "LLNL is a family and I am blessed to have coworkers who have become family to me. To now be part of the family as an employee is one of the biggest honors I could ever ask for."

Rock said she looks forward to being able to meet her daughter for lunch while at work after things get back to normal. "I look forward to creating more memories for the family."



John Rock



Charlie Hannon

Grandma Patricia Machado, great grandma Priscilla Jane Lee "Banny," mom Jan James, dad Lynn James, Stacey James, grandpa Eugene James, grandma lla James — circa 1984.



THREE GENERATIONS, AND 60 YEARS



ong before Stacey James was hired at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a family connection two generations strong went before her: Her paternal grandfather, her maternal grandmother and both of her parents worked at the Lab. Stacey's family history at LLNL is three generations and 60 years strong.

Stacey's grandfather, Eugene James, started his career as a maintenance mechanic supervisor in Plant Engineering in 1961. Two years later, Stacey's grandmother, Patricia Machado, joined the Lab working as an executive secretary in what was then the BioMed Department.

Eugene was working the swing shift when his son, Dale "Lynn" James, was a child. Lynn spent a lot of time with a neighbor who happened to work as a mechanical technician at the Lab. This neighbor had a collection of classic cars and motorcycles and Lynn spent afternoons working on them. One day his neighbor mentioned that the Lab was hiring. Lynn was disappointed to be turned down following his first interview, but a few weeks later he was called back for a second.

At the time, Lynn was fully restoring a 1936 Chevy panel truck. He had diligently written a build-book during that restoration and brought it with him to his interview. After the supervisor perused the book, he arranged for Lynn to be



fingerprinted. Lynn went home believing he would again be disappointed — a letter of intent arrived a few days later. Coincidentally, Lynn was hired by Bob Ashworth, who also hired his father in 1961. Following in his father's footsteps, Lynn started at the Lab in 1974.

Stacey's mother Jan followed in her mother Patricia's footsteps and started working at the Lab in 1974 — the same year as Lynn. Jan worked as an Engineering assistant near Bldg. 174, and Lynn, a mechanical engineering associate, worked nearby and often saw Jan walking to her car. Lynn's supervisor introduced them during a Christmas party in 1974. The rest is history — the couple married in 1976 and Stacey was born in 1979.

In 2011, Stacey started working in the Laboratory Training Center, a division of Operations and Business. Three years later, she transitioned to the Central Clearance group in the Security Organization where she worked as the Preliminary Background Investigations lead for three years. She is currently a Business Operations specialist in the Materials Science Division within Physical and Life Sciences.

"In my mind, the Lab is like a part of my family," Stacey said. "That's how all of us have put food on our tables. For me, the Lab just felt like home. So, of course, I am going to work here. I don't know why I didn't start my career here sooner."

Jan left the Lab in 1979 when Stacey was born. She now fills her time with gardening and genealogy. Lynn retired in 2014 (one month short of 40 years on the job) and continues to restore antique vehicles. Stacey had the opportunity to work with her father at the Lab for several years before he retired, and she loved it. They would lunch together or grab a cup of coffee, but Stacey particularly enjoyed commuting once a year with her dad in his 1931 American Austin Roadster, a Pebble Beach Car Show award winner, that he brought to the Lab for the annual car show.

Lynn and Jan James in their 1931 American Austin Roadster. "It was awesome, and I did see him quite a bit (on-site)," she said. "I loved working with my dad. It was cute seeing him in his element."

"She worked right across the street from me. I liked being able to see her during the workday," Lynn said. "It was really nice."

By Anne M. Stark

The James family in a Western-themed photo. Back row, left to right, brother Chad James, father Lynn James, grandparents Ila James and Eugene James. Front row, left to right, nephew Logan James, mother Jan James, sister in law Letty James holding niece Caitlyn James and Stacey James.



Coming full circle to the Lab

By Carrie Martin

t seems like fate had something to do with Mike Voelker coming to work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Through his bloodline is a long list of Labbies dating back to 1958.

Voelker has spent the past 15 years working in IT at LLNL. He came to the Lab in March 2006 and is currently working as a systems administrator in the IT Infrastructure team in the Weapons & Complex Integration Directorate.

"I started working in IT just out of high school and during college," Voelker said. "I was playing college sports but got injured. Instead of finishing my degree, IT turned into a career. I worked at Sandia National Labs/California as a security police officer from early 2002 to 2006. I really wanted to get back into IT, so when an opening came up in the Superblock at the Lab, I applied and got it. Having a clearance really helped."

Working at the Lab was like coming full circle for Voelker. Both grandparents on his dad's side, Loren (1958-1991) and Betty (1982-1993) Voelker, had careers at the Lab. Loren was a senior supervisor and Betty was an office administrator. "My grandfather came to the Laboratory after being in the Navy, and my grandmother eventually followed."

Voelker's grandfather on his mom's side, Art Krakowsky, was an electronics engineer and manager at the Lab from 1967 to 1993. Prior to LLNL, he served in the Navy, lived all over the country, went to college and worked at Bell Labs. After his retirement from LLNL, he was very active in the community as a volunteer for TOPS (Teaching Opportunities for Partners in Science) and other STEM outreach programs.

It is no surprise that Voelker's dad Keith and uncle Matt also worked at the Laboratory. Keith was a sheet metal worker/welder from 1981 to 2012 and Matt worked for the Lab Fire Department from 1992 to 2012.

His cousin, Bobbie Brown, also works at the Lab (2015-present) as an executive assistant to the security director.

"With all the different family members that have worked here, most were either before my time or in different areas so I never got the chance to really 'work' with them," Voelker said. "I do have to admit though, it was kind of cool working in the Superblock knowing that my dad had done a whole lot of work on the ventilation systems for the radioactive materials area."

Loren Voelker, acknowledged in Newsline for reaching a milestone of 20 years of service. Loren Voelker (left) and Kenneth Olsen (right) assembled instrument and control racks in the 1960s for installation in a Site 300 Bunker. Betty Voelker's original badge photo from 1982.

Art Krakowsky (left) with Greg Suski in 1988 as part of the LLIX Management Team.

A family gathering for lunch in Carson City, Nevada, about five years ago, shortly before Betty Voelker passed away.

CH 30-year love affair

hen Joseph Warren joined Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1990, little did he know that it was the beginning of what would become a family affair.

Joseph, who worked as a contractor in administrative information systems and in machine tool services for Engineering before moving into his current role as a field technologist with Radioactive Hazardous Waste Management, was determined that his children — including daughters Monique and Shian Warren — succeed and find fulfilling careers.

Seeing increasing numbers of young women in scientific and technical fields at LLNL, he was inspired to provide his daughters with rewards for academic accomplishments and worked to find role models and mentors for them.

"Having all daughters, you see that science and engineering can be lacking for girls in school," he said. "I wanted them to get an education and jobs with a career goal in mind. It was worth it to make that commitment to my girls."

Joseph connected Monique with Andrea Hodge, then a staff scientist at LLNL. Hodge mentored Monique throughout middle and high school, and the relationship continued even after she became a professor at the University of Southern California (USC), where Monique enrolled after graduating from high school.

"My dad has worked at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national labs a lot of my life and he introduced me to scientists at both laboratories," Monique said. "Growing up, that was really one of the starting points of me being interested in science and STEM."

After she graduated from USC with a bachelor's degree in engineering, Joseph was ready to start making connections again. He talked to the department head of LLNL's Environmental Restoration Department, and after finding that there may be an opening for an intern, he encouraged Monique to apply.

"I knew of Lawrence Livermore because my dad and my mentor worked there, but I didn't think I could — I was really intimidated by the Lab as a place to work. But my dad is my biggest cheerleader and he was really advocating for me to apply," Monique said. "I ended up applying for an internship with the Environmental Restoration Department. I was accepted and after working as an intern for six months, I was hired full time as an environmental engineer."

Seeing her older sister win rewards from Joseph for academic accomplishments, Shian Warren was inspired to succeed as well.

"There were a lot of secret competitions in my head with my sister, so I pushed myself to get there — I wanted to get money too, so I always kept my GPA up," she laughed. "I always wanted to have that type of competition because it motivated me to keep going and make sure I was getting a good education."

While that rivalry helped to inspire her, her goals were different. "I always wanted to go to a good college, but my dream was to be an artist — to do animation and work like that," Shian said.

After she attended the Art Institute of California and held several design jobs, Joseph once again advocated for a daughter to join LLNL. Like Monique, Shian was initially reticent to apply.

"The idea of working at the Laboratory seemed insane to me, because it didn't seem like I was 'smart' enough or had that type of mindset," Shian said. "It was kind of intimidating at that moment."

But Joseph persisted, helping Shian learn more about the roles that could be available to her at LLNL. Having helped to nurture her creative side by drawing with her as a child, it was important to him that she find a career that would allow those skills to flourish, and he believed that could happen at LLNL. Shian is now an instructional designer in Environment, Safety and Health.

"My supervisors, Glenette Alston and Lorenzo Wells, saw my potential and mentored me," she said. "I've been able to do so many projects at the Laboratory and it's been a really fun journey."

Now, three decades after joining the Laboratory, Joseph's dreams have come true — his daughters have careers they're passionate about, and he has a front-row seat to watch them flourish.

"It's been a 30-year love affair for me," he said. "I love this place — it's romanticized to that level for me because you see the possibilities and I wanted that for my girls. I stop in Monique's office and see what she's working on, or I see Shian's art all over the Laboratory and I swell with pride. I'm really proud of both of them."

Joseph Warren's longtime enthusiasm for LLNL inspired daughters Monique (left) and Shian (right) to pursue careers at the Lab.

Photo by Adrian Valenzuela.



